

Today, I would like to congratulate all of the teams who participated in this year's tournaments. In particular, I would like to commend the high schools of Warner, Douglas, and Mitchell for having earned their respective State boys' basketball championship titles in 1996. Clearly, these schools exemplify the commitment to excellence and teamwork that all South Dakota high schools share with their communities.

HOW MUCH FOREIGN OIL BEING CONSUMED BY UNITED STATES? HERE'S TODAY'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that, for the week ending March 15, the U.S. imported 7,145,000 barrels of oil each day, 752,000 barrels more than the 6,393,000 barrels imported during the same period a year ago.

Americans now rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs, and there are no signs that this upward trend will abate.

The increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil must be addressed by those who care about restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers.

The American people should consider the economic calamity that will occur if and when foreign producers shut off our supply, or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 7,145,000 barrels a day. We must not delay in seeking to solve this troubling problem.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, 4 years ago when I commenced these daily reports to the Senate it was my purpose to make a matter of daily record the exact Federal debt as of the close of business the previous day.

In that first report—February 27, 1992—the Federal debt the previous day stood at \$3,825,891,293,066.80, as of the close of business. The point is, the Federal debt has since shot further into the stratosphere.

As of yesterday at the close of business, a total of \$1,233,906,465,897.14 has been added to the Federal debt since February 26, 1992, meaning that as of the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 20, 1996, the exact Federal debt stood at \$5,059,797,758,963.94. (On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,131.71 as his or her share of the Federal debt.)

FRANKLIN N. MEISSNER DAY ON THE SOUTH SHORE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Massachusetts' finest citizens, Franklin N. Meissner, and his contributions to the business

community on the south shore of Massachusetts.

Next Tuesday, March 26, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Frank Meissner, who is the chamber's past chairman. The south shore chamber is currently the second largest chamber of commerce in Massachusetts, and it is also one of the largest suburban business organizations in the country. With its substantial resources and its committed membership, the chamber has been an instrumental factor in promoting economic growth and community development that benefits all families in southern Massachusetts.

Frank Meissner has been deeply involved in all of these initiatives and he deserves great credit for their success. He is currently the president of Electro Switch Corp., which employs almost 300 people. He also serves as director of both the Bank of Braintree and the South Shore Hospital, and is also the past president and still an active member of the Weymouth Rotary Club.

I congratulate Frank Meissner for his many achievements and for his leadership in so many effective ways for the people of the South Shore. March 26 is truly Franklin N. Meissner Day on the south shore, and all of us are proud of him.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to be a sponsor of the resolution designating March 25, 1996 as Greek Independence Day.

On this, the 175th anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire, we honor the courageous struggle by the Greeks to regain their freedom. After being ruled by the Ottoman Turks for four centuries, the people of Greece were able to restore democracy for the Nation where democracy was first born in the ancient world.

The people of Greece have made extraordinary contributions to all nations of the world, and no country has benefited more from these contributions than the United States. It has been said that except for the blind forces of nature, nothing moves in this world which is not Greek in origin. Our Founding Fathers modeled our own system of democratic government on the basic principles of democracy of ancient Greece, and over 3-million Greek-Americans today continue to make valuable contributions to all aspects of American life. This resolution, in commemorating Greek Independence Day, also commemorates the close and enduring ties between our two nations. Long may they flourish.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1787. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to repeal the saccharin notice requirement.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 2:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence Senate:

H.J. Res. 165. Joint resolution making further appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-503. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

"JOINT RESOLUTION

"Whereas, the federal budget allocates less heating assistance for low-income homeowners than provided in previous years; and

"Whereas, food stamp assistance under certain circumstances is linked to heating assistance; and

"Whereas, the significant reduction in heating assistance to 54,000 households in Maine, 12,000 of which involve subsidized housing and 7,000 of this 12,000 involve elderly households, will have a severe impact on Maine people, especially those receiving food stamps; and

"Whereas, cuts to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program are concurrent with cutbacks in the prescription drug program, increases in Medicare premiums and the loss of food stamps. These cuts will be especially hard felt by Maine seniors and the disabled community who rely on these programs in their day-to-day existence; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, your Memorialists, respectfully recommend and urge the Congress of the United States to change current federal policy to allow persons who meet the eligibility requirements for food stamps but who do not receive heating assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to receive food stamps in the same amount as they would have received had